Conclusion

Given the technological possibility of using computers to aid ballistic identification, ATF has developed a plan to deploy the technology nationwide, for the maximum benefit to law-abiding residents of the United States. This solid and feasible plan draws upon a variety of resources within ATF and crosses traditional boundaries between Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies' areas of responsibility. Through close work with State and local users to adapt the system to work most effectively for users and to hold them accountable for its employment, ATF's NIBIN Program is continually striving to improve its effectiveness.

The NIBIN Program's success – and ultimately its usefulness – depend on the cooperation on which it is based. NIBIN partner agencies must continue to enter firearm evidence into the computerized database in the form of test fires and recovered bullets and cartridge casings. As the database grows, the potential increases for identifications to be made, links to crime guns revealed, and investigative leads created. The program is an investigative tool that discovers links invisible to other investigative methods. There is still no substitute for good police work; the NIBIN system depends entirely on the thorough investigation of the intelligence information generated. Cases are closed by investigation of leads generated by NIBIN, not by the system itself.

ATF is cognizant of the fact that the program directly assists the Bureau in fulfilling our mission to support other Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies. ATF will continue to redefine, reshape and expand this program to ensure that it continues to help law enforcement agencies solve violent crimes involving firearms.

You use a gun. . .

to commit
a crime. . .

We find the
link. . .

and you do time!